Agreement with Coal India Limited

14. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased so state :

(a) when Memorandum of Understanding between Government and the Coal India Limited were signed during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there had been any delay in signing the MOUs in each year, if so, what were the reasons therefor in each case;

(c) in what manner Coal companies started their production programmes and prepared annual action plans till the finalisation of MOUs in the absence of clear objectives/targets;

(d) the extent to which the delay affected the performance of the coal companies during each of the last three years; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that MOUs are signed well before the start of a financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The MOUs between Government and CIL for the years 1990-91 and 1992-93 were signed on 20th July, 1990 and 12th May, 1992 respectively. The MOU for the year 1991-92 could not be signed as CIL was reluctant to sign the MOU without price revision of coal which could materialise only in the last week of December, 1991 and it was too late to sign the MOU thereafter.

(b) After the annual plan targets are finalised in consultation with Planning Commission, the other derived figures on the parameters of MOU are worked out. Thereafter, it is discussed among the Administrative Ministry, PSUs and related Ministries. It is again discussed with the Department of Public Enterprises (Nodal Department for finalisation of MOUs with PSUs) involving representatives of Ministries, PSUs and Members of Adhoc Task Force set up by Department of Public Enterprises, for the purpose. Subsequently, it is approved by a High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

In view of this procedure, the MOUs for 1990-91 and 1992-93 could not be signed before the commencement of financial year.

(c) and (d) The annual objectives and targets are finalised during discussions with Planning Commission at the time of finalisation of Annual Plans and BE for 1993-94. Therefore, factor of delay in finalisation of MOUs does not affect performance of coal companies.

(e) Government have taken a decision that in order to ensure that MOUs are signed well before the start of the financial year, the draft MOUs for next financial years should be vetted in two stages (Stage I-format of MOUs, Stage-II - targets and performance rating figures). The Stage I discussion involving format of MOU will be held and finalised before the annual targets are finalised by Planning Commission. After the Plan targets are finalised, the Stage II discussion for performance rating discussion could be held expeditiously. For 1993-94 the process of discussions has been completed and draft MOU has been submitted to Department of Public Enterprises for approval.

Permission to State Governments to import coal

15. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted some of the State Governments to import coal for their use;

(b) if so, the names of the states which have got such permission; and

(c) the quantity of coal that has since been imported by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT